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ment, of self-government in schools. Every school ought to be self-governing in the high sense that all its members are allegiant to the ideal which the school expresses. There must also be organization to bring this about, but it should be organization consonant to the nature of the school, and not forced upon it from something excellent without. The school should be an ideal community in which all are free, in which all co-operate, in which all recognize the excellent as their leader, in whose organization all have their equal share, and in which all the machinery of government has vanished in a genuine and solid unanimity of purpose.

THE PRELIMINARY EDUCATION WHICH SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY THE STUDENT WHO CONTEM- PLATES ENTERING A PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL.

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This subject relates to the preliminary education which should be completed by every person today who contemplates entering a professional school to prepare for the practice of a profession, especially that of medicine or law. It is of great importance, because it involves the future standing of these professions in this country, and the welfare of a large number of young men who are to enter them. It is desirable that the members of this association should be acquainted with the facts, because they, more than other persons, come into contact with young men and women of high-school age, at which time in many, if not in most cases, these young people decide upon their future vocations. The present time is opportune, because the conditions obtaining in the practice of medicine and of law have only recently become such as to warrant the uniform exaction of a much higher requirement than would heretofore have been reasonable or possible. As I am more directly interested in the department of medicine, and as Professor Hall is to say something in reference to preparation for the study of law, I shall confine what I have to say entirely to the question of a preparatory education for medical work.

I would emphasize first that the subject proposed for discussion is not that of the *ideal* preparation for the study of medicine, but the minimum education with which any man can afford

to begin his professional study. As to the ideal requirement, there would be little difference of opinion among educated men that this should consist of a college course, or a considerable part thereof. Opinions would differ as to the specific subjects which this course should include, and, perhaps, also as to the number of years it should cover; but there would be little difference as to the main fact.

The university professional school may assume either one of two positions in regard to this matter. It may demand admission requirements far in excess of those which it would be reasonable to exact of all, and frankly say that it proposes to prepare men only for the highest positions in the profession, leaving to schools of inferior character the education of the rank and file; or it may make its minimum requirements such as might fairly and justly be exacted of every person preparing to practice law or medicine under the prevailing conditions, while, at the same time, it provides a more thorough preparatory course for those who will accept the advice that they should take it. The first position is a perfectly legitimate attitude for a particular university to assume, if it chooses to do so, and in the case of one medical school at least in this country the assumption of this position has been of distinct service in raising the standard of medical education. It seems to me, however, that it would be extremely unfortunate if all university medical schools were to adopt this policy and deliberately to relegate the teaching of the large majority of physicians to schools of inferior grade. If the time has arrived when there can reasonably be demanded from any and every medical student a minimum requirement which is sufficiently high to comport with the university ideas, then the university medical school should seek to enroll among its pupils all students who can comply with those ideals without regard to their possible or prospective ultimate rank in the profession.

It is of special importance, moreover, that the general educational standard of the whole medical profession in this country be raised as soon and as rapidly as possible, to the end that the profession may exercise a wider and stronger influence in the

community. It is an interesting fact that the remarkable progress which has been made in the medical sciences in recent years, particularly in our knowledge of the causes of diseases, has been followed by very little advance in curative measures, that is to say, of our ability to arrest a disease in the individual after it has once begun. The practical good that has come from this recent progress lies almost wholly in our ability to prevent disease rather than to cure it. If the possibilities of such prevention are to be realized, it must be through the education of the community and the enactment of legislation along the lines of community hygiene and sanitation. The ability of the profession thus to educate the public and to secure such legislation as this depends largely on the general educational standard of its members, and, by virtue of this, their influence in the community.

Whatever be the requirements of this or that medical school, the question which concerns this audience is this: What advice should be given a boy who has decided to become a physician? Shall he be told emphatically that he must secure some considerable part of a college course before beginning his study of medicine, if he is to have any reasonable prospect of success? If it is true that a young man taking up the study of medicine with no more than a high-school preparation is bound to be very seriously handicapped in his future career, if he is to meet the keen, sharp competition of a large and increasing number of physicians who have had a thorough collegiate training, then it is important that he should be fully informed in regard to the facts before it is too late. Few persons, even physicians, realize how enormous and rapid have been the changes in the last ten or even five years. A few facts will serve to illustrate this. There were in the United States 116 medical schools in 1890 and 154 in 1902—an increase of about 50 per cent. in twelve years. The number of medical students has nearly doubled in the same time, having been about 15,000 in 1890 and 27,816 in 1902-3. The total number of graduates was 4,454 in 1890 and 5,698 in 1903. The total number of physicians in the United States at the present time is about 150,000—a ratio of 1 to between 500 and 600 of

the population; nearly double the ratio existing in any other country of the world. As nearly as can be estimated, while there were about 5,700 graduates from the medical schools in 1903, less than 4,000 would have sufficed to meet the demand created by death and disability and the increase of population. In other words, nearly 2,000 physicians were graduated from medical schools in a single year in excess of the number really needed. If this ratio of increase be maintained, it is clear that in ten years we shall have 15,000 or 20,000 physicians in this country in excess of the demand. This is a very radical change from the conditions which obtained ten years ago; but even these statistics do not convey an adequate idea of the change in the conditions of medical practice. At that time a diploma from any reputable medical college not only secured a license to practice in almost every state in the Union, but the rapid growth of the country and the continual opening up of new territory made it possible for any young man with such a diploma to find a location where he could at least earn a living. To find such a location has already become a difficult task, and it is rapidly becoming more so. Competition has become very keen, not in the city alone, but even in the more remote country places. While a thorough college training is by no means a guarantee of success, nor does the lack of it of necessity mean failure, it requires no prophet to foresee that, with rare exceptions, the successful men of the future in the medical profession will be those who are best prepared, by a broad and thorough fundamental education.

The suggestion will perhaps be made that the medical schools and the examining boards of health should be left to settle this matter by increasing the requirements for admission to the medical schools and for the procuring of a license to practice. Doubtless these agencies might bring about desired results in time, but it will be a slow process, for unfortunately a large number of medical schools are not actuated by the highest motives; and meanwhile many young men are entering the profession of medicine inadequately prepared and foredoomed to almost certain failure. Most students who enter a medical school too early do

so through lack of knowledge of the importance of a thorough preparation. Here at the University we have found in our experience with prospective medical students that, if we can get in touch with the high-school boy before he comes to the city to take up the study of medicine, either by correspondence or, better, in person, he can in many cases be convinced of the importance of taking the prescribed college work before he takes up his medical study. If, on the contrary, he comes to the city, often from a long distance, expecting to enter the medical school at once, and finds, as he does, medical schools ready to receive him with a good deal less than an adequate high-school education, it is extremely difficult to turn him from his purpose to enter upon the medical work at once. It is here desired to emphasize the statement that every young man is almost certain to meet disappointment and failure, if he begins the study of medicine today without adequate preliminary education. The high-school course does not afford this. He should have, in addition, as a very minimum, two years of collegiate work, such as is provided in the combined course for the bachelor's and the medical degrees, offered at this University and at several other universities in this country. It is of vital interest to the profession of medicine, to the community, to the better class of medical schools, and above all to the prospective medical students themselves, that this information be as widely disseminated and as forcibly impressed as possible. Believing, as we do, that it is the function of the university, not simply to hold its doors open to those who may choose to come to it, but actively and energetically to promote the education and elevation of the community at large by every means within its power, we believe it to be its duty to disseminate knowledge of the facts to which I have referred, as widely as may be. To that end, we ask the co-operation of the members of this association, who are so peculiarly in a position to reach the young men who most need to know these facts in reference to medical education.